

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 4656

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, JM

SUBJECT: PM ACCUSES JLP OF SPRADING FEAR AND PANIC

REF: KINGSTON A 201 OF NOVEMBER 6, 1975 (NOTAL)

1. IN A PREPARED RADIO AND TV BROADCAST TO THE NATION NOVEMBER 24, PM MANLEY ACCUSED THE OPPOSITION JLP OF SPRADING FEAR AND PANIC IN THE COUNTRY "AS A MATTER OF DELIBERATE POLICY". THE PM, WHO LEFT NOVEMBER 25 TO ADDRESS A WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES MEETING IN NAIROBI, CLAIMED THAT " MANY OF THEM EVEN WISH TO CREATE THE KIND OF CONDITIONS IN WHICH THE JAMAICAN ECONOMY CEASES TO OPERATE EFFECTIVELY".,

2. ACCORDING TO MANLEY , THE JLP HAS "CAMPAIGNED STRENU-OUSLY TO DIVI DE THE COUNTRY, TO RIGHTEN THE PEOPLE,AND TO PREVENT THE GOVERNMENT FROM ACTING TO REDRESS SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC INEQUALITIES". IN THIS EFFORT THEJLP HAS "REVIVED AND EXPLOITED THE OLD COMMUNIST SMEAR AGAINST THE PNP". PARTICULARLY OFFENSIVE TO THE PM WAS THE FACT THAT THE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION, EDWARD SEAGA, "GAVE AN EXTRA TWIST TO THIS COMMUNIST SMEAR CAMPAIGN" BY GOING TO MIAMI "TO SPREAD THIS POSITION AMONG OUR FRIENDS, THE AMERICAN PEOPLE". (COMMENT/ TH PM
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APPARENTLY IS REFERRING TO THE INTERVIEW SEAGA GAVE

TO DON BOHNING OF THE MIAMI HEARALD LAST MONTH.)

3. MANLEY CONTENDED THAT THE SMEAR CAMPAIGN AND THE OPPOSITIN CHARGES OF UNFAIR ELECTORAL PRACTICES WERE DESIGNED TO DIVERT ATTENTION FROM RECENT JLP ELECTION DEFEATS. ". THE TRUTH IS THAT IT IS ALL PART OF A CALCULATED ATTEMPTPT BY THE NEW JLP LEADERSHIP AND THEIR SPECIAL FREINDS TO CREATE THE ILLUSION THAT WE ARE WILLING TO DO ANYTHING TO RETAINPOWER AND THAT WE DO NOT RESPECT THE SYSTEMS OF DEMOCRACY AND JUSTICE IN OUR SOCIETY".

4. FOLLOWING A LENGTHY REFUTATION OF CHARGES OF PNP ELCTORAL MALPRACTICES, THE PM RAISED THE SPECTRE OF POSSIBLE EXTRA-LEGAL JLP PLOTTING BY COMMENTING THE NEW JLP LEADER SAYS HE HAS LOST ALL FAITH IN OUR ELECTORAL PROCESSES AND ANNOUNCES THAT THE NEXT GENERAL ELECTION MAY WELL BE OUR LAST. HOW (THEN) DOES HE PROPOSE TO GAIN POWER?"

5. THE PM CONCLUDED THE BROADCAST WITH AN APPEAL FOR THE COUNTRY TO BE CALM AND ALERT IN HIS ABSENCE. "SO ALL OF YOU BE DISCIPLINED * BE VIGILANT* KEEP THE FAITH IN YOUR COUNTRY AND YOURSELF* KEEP ALERT,AND UNTIL I RETURN KEEP YOUR EYES WIDE OPEN".

6. COMMENT: THERE IS TRUTH IN WHAT MANLEY SAID. SEAGA AND OTHER JLP LEADERS HAVE MADE ALL THOSE NASTY ALLEGATIONS AGAINST THE PM AND HIS PARTY. MORE IMPORTANTLY AN INCREASINGLY LARGE SEGMENT OF THE BODY POLITIC IS WILLING TO BELIEVE THEM, INCLUDING MORE MODERATE OR CONSERVATIVE MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS OF THE PNP

7. MANLEY'S SPEECH CLEARLY WAS A COUNTEROFFENSIVE. HE IS UNDER FIRE AND IS VULNERABLE. THOUGH SEAGA'S ACCUSATIONS ARE OVERDRAWN, THE PNP HAS DONE SOME HEAVY-HANDED AND ILLEGAL THINS IN RECENT BY-ELECTIONS. INDEED, MINISTER OF NATIONAL SECURITY AND JUSTICE KEBLE MUNN HAS ADMITTED AS MUCH IN PARLIAMENT, WHILE AT THE SAME TIME TRYING TO REASSURE THE PUBLIC THAT THE ACTS WERE PERPETRATED BY AN OVERZEALOUS FEW AND IT WOULD NOT HAPPEN AGAIN
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8. PERHAPS WHAT IS SCARING THE PUBLIC THE MOSTIS THE APPARENT EXPANDING INFLUENCE OF THE LEFT WING YOUTH WITHIN THE PNP. WHEN THE GOVERNOR GENERAL, WHO IS HIMSELF A FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE PNP, MADE A SPEECH SOME TEN DAYS AGO CALLING FOR THE PUBLIC TO RAISE ITS VOICES AGAINST SOME OF THE CURRENT EXCESSES (READ BY PNP RADICALS) IN JAMAICAN POLITICAL LIFE, THE PNP YOUTH

ORGANIZATION CALLED FOR HIS "DEMISE", CHARGING HE WAS HOSTILE TO THE GOVERNMENT AND IN LEAGUE WITH REACTIONARY FORCES.

9. A SOMEWHAT UNFAIR BUT REAL QUESTION IN MANY PEOPLE'S MINDS IS DOES THE PNP YOUTH REPRESENT MANLEY'S TRUE THINKING OR ARE THEY JUST OUT OF CONTROL. EITHER ANSWER IS EQUALLY DISQUIETING TO THE SKEPTICS. MANLEY MAY WELL BE TRYING TO REIGN THEM IN, AS ONE REPORT THE EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED WOULD SEEM TO INDICATE. IN THE MANTIME THERE IS NOTHING LIKE A GOOD OFFENSIVE TO DISTRACT ATTENTION , BUY ATIME, AND RELIEVE YOUR WEAK DEFENSES

10. SEVERAL PNP FIGURES, INCLUDING ONE FORMER MINISTER, HAVE TOLD THE EMBASSY IN THE PAST THAT THE PM FEARS SEAGA LIKE NO OTHER JOP POLITICIAN. ACCORDING TO THESE SOURCES MANLEY'S OBSESSION WITH WHAT SEAGA IS UP TO BORDERS ON PARANOIA AND FREQUENTLY CAUSES HIM TO OVER-REACT. VIEWED FROM THAT PERSPECTIVE, THE PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH COULD BE MUCH MORE STRAIGHTFORWARD THAN MANY OBERVERS ARE WILLING TO ADMIT. DORRANCE

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